REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 13, 15, 27, 29, 30 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

A telephonic interview was conducted between the Applicants' representative, E. Huang, and the Examiner in this case on August 20, 2008 and on August 29, 2008. Applicants thank the Examiner for granting and conducting the interviews.

REJECTIONS BASED ON 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over "Can Prosody Aid the Automatic Classification of Dialog Acts in Conversational Speech?" (hereinafter Shriberg) in view of Binnig et al. (US 6,792,418). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of Applicants' amendments of the independent claims 1, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 and further in view of the following arguments.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a new limitation of "determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions in the input text, [[and]] the model of discourse function level prosodic features, and the input text." Claims 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 have also been amended to recite a generally similar limitation.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Shriberg nor Binning et al., taken alone or in the combination, teach or suggest the limitation recited in the pending independent claims 1, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 of determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the input text. Shriberg discloses potentially utilizing prosody to aid in the automatic classification of dialog acts in conversational speech. The Binning reference is directed towards providing a scheme for

adding elements to a database through the use of grammatical analysis, which allows for easy access or retrieval of files.

Applicants thank the Examiner for clarifying his position in regards to how the Binning reference was used only to allegedly cite that input text or speech can thus be analyzed by discourse analysis. However, as mentioned in the interview, Applicants respectfully point out that Binning is not directed towards <u>speech synthesis; merely being capable of taking speech input is insufficient for the reference to be considered as such.</u> As stated above, the Binning reference is directed towards providing a scheme for adding elements to a database through the use of grammatical analysis, which allows for easy access or retrieval of files. (Col. 2, 25-45).

Though applicants understand that the Binning reference was only meant to be used for the limitations of determining input text and the prosodic features, in view of the combination, it is evident that the combination renders it impossible for the limitation of "determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions in the input text and the model of discourse function level prosodic features <u>and the input text</u>" to be taught as recited in the newly amended independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in the amended claims 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30. As indicated in Col. 14 lines 17-22 and Figs. 3-5 of the Binning reference, Binning takes in input text and then <u>transforms the input text into an input network, thus losing the original input text.</u> For example, in Fig 3A, the input sentence "Mike was a young boy" is transformed into a network of "Mike be boy young a" in Fig 3B, and then fits it into a knowledge database in Figure 4 for word association purposes. This is to be expected since the purpose of the Binning reference was for grammatical analysis and creating better database management based on input networks, and not towards the <u>output of speech</u>. The application of Binning would therefore destroy one of the features of the invention. If "Mike was a young boy" was the input text in the present invention, the

speech output would be "Mike was a young boy", but adjusted with discourse functions related to speech. Applicants thus respectfully note that references cannot properly be combined with each other when such would result in destroying that on which the invention of one of the references is based. Ex parte Hartmann, 186 U.S.P.Q. 366, 367 (Pat. Off. Bd. App. and Inter. 1974).

Therefore, without admitting that the cited references teach or suggest any other elements of the pending claims, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the specific limitation of determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the input text as recited in the newly amended independent claims 1, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30. For this reason, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of the newly amended independent claims 1, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30, and, therefore, the independent claims 1, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 are patentable over the combination of the cited references.

With respect to the rejection of the remaining dependent claims 1-12, 14, 16-26 and 28, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of the references used by the Examiner in rejecting those claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of these dependent claims are rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claims 1, 13, 15 and 27 and that that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon allowable independent claims 1, 13, 15 and 27.
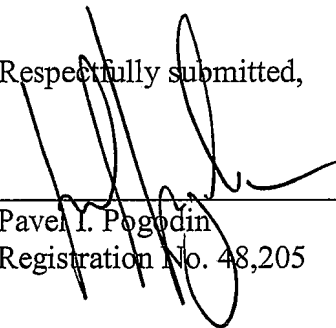
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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